

HETERODOX HAIKU

edited by Jerome Berglund


Etymology

*Hybrids in Japanese Inspired
Micropoetics*

A photograph of a large tree with numerous thick, gnarled roots that spread out horizontally across the ground. The roots are light brown and textured, contrasting with the green grass and small plants growing between them. The background shows more of the tree's trunk and roots, suggesting a dense forest environment.

Andrew Brindle
Taiwan

roots
holding everything
together



**dreary sunday
removing nails**

Jerome Berglund
Louisiana



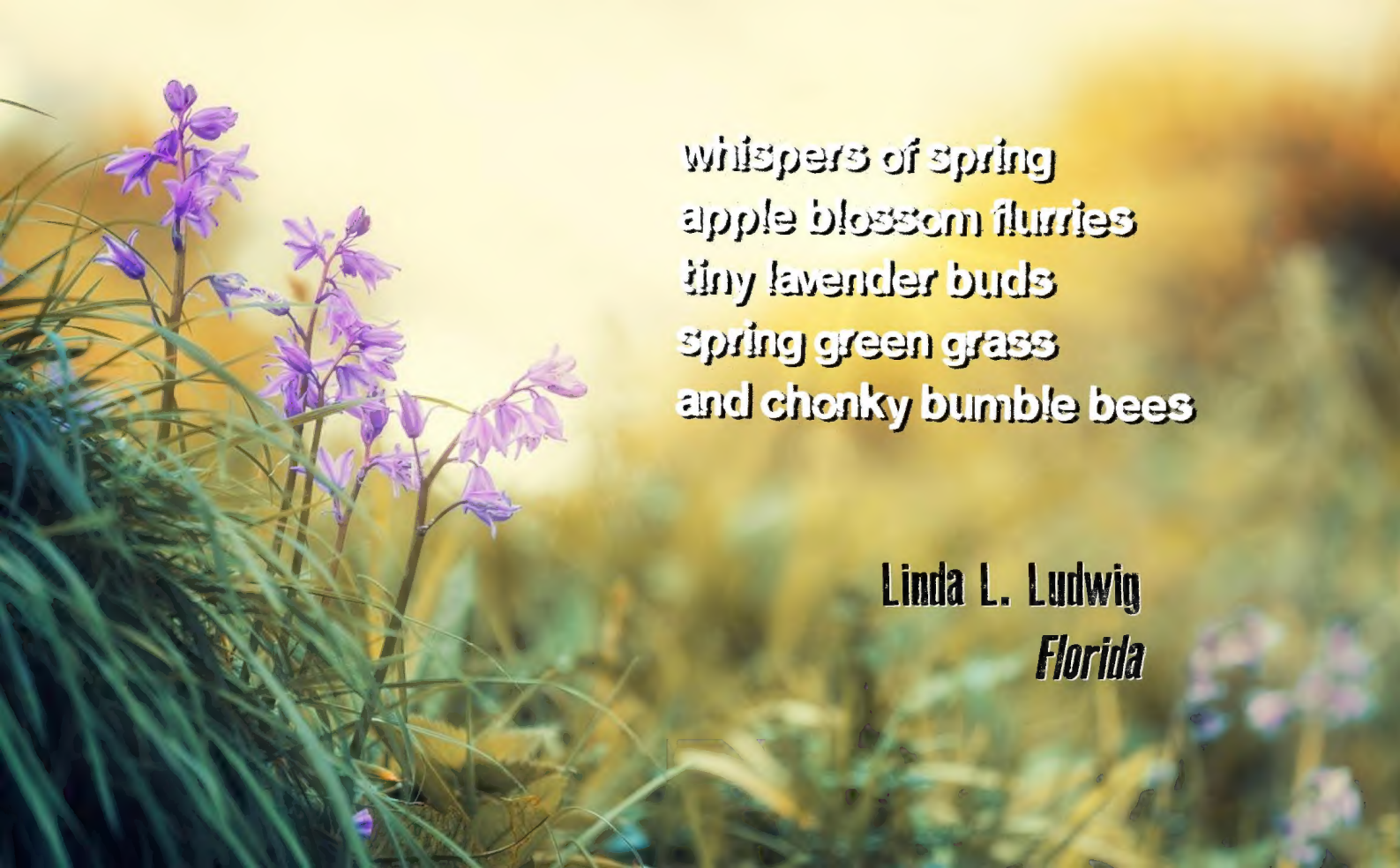
Isabella Mori
British Columbia

no ground beneath me
as i fly in this little plane
rootless

**catfish blues
having to dye her
roots black**

**Leon Tefft
*South Carolina***



A photograph of purple flowers and green grass in the foreground, with a warm, golden, out-of-focus background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**whispers of spring
apple blossom flurries
tiny lavender buds
spring green grass
and chonky bumble bees**

**Linda L. Ludwig
Florida**



Bonnie J Scherer
Alaska

**aging girders
bridging the gaps
in forgotten stories**

A black and white photograph showing several trees upside down against a solid black background. The trunks of the trees are light-colored and textured, with many small holes or knots visible. The branches and leaves are dark and intricate, creating a complex web of lines. The overall effect is surreal and dramatic.

**upside-down
trees rooting into the sky
how our lungs breathe**

Marjorie Pezzoli
California

A black and white photograph of a wooden porch. In the foreground, a large, ornate hanging flower basket is suspended from the porch railing. The basket is filled with various flowers, including several large daisies, and is decorated with pinecones and dried grasses. The porch has a wooden railing and a wooden floor. In the background, a wooden building with a corrugated metal roof is visible. A small evergreen tree stands to the right of the porch. The overall scene is peaceful and rustic.

Biswajit Mishra
Alberta

birth home
now
who lives there



Christina Chin

Borneo

echoes
of returning herders
rape blossoms sway

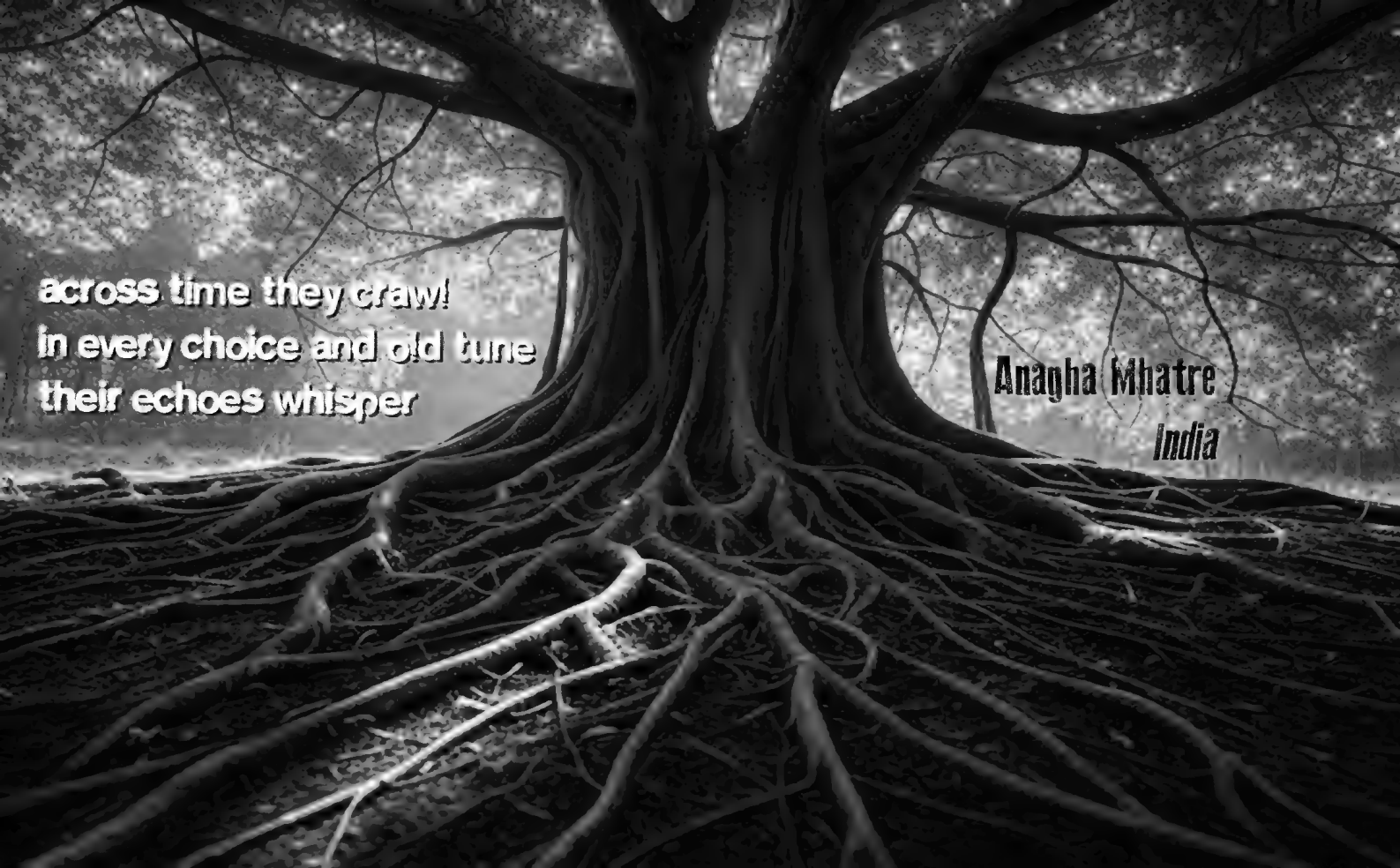
into alignment

finding the square root of love

in a small kindness

John Hawkhead

England



across time they crawl!
in every choice and old tune
their echoes whisper

Anagha Mhatre
India



Barbara Anna Gaiardoni
Italy

horseradish root
during the winter
pungent smells
our family gathered
around a table

photograph by Andrea Vannacore

Jahnavi Gogoi
Ontario



safe space
the kitchen deity
understands her accent

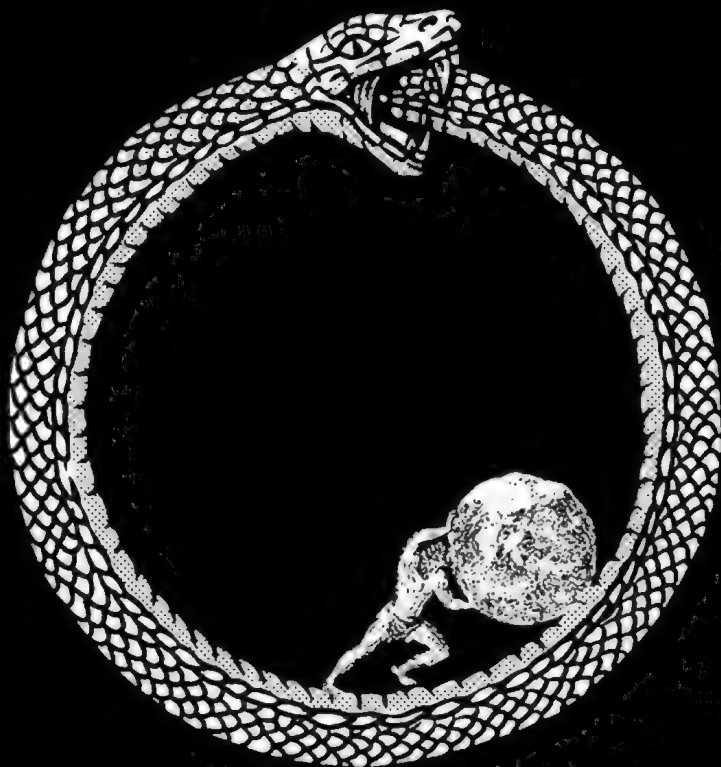
we are gathered here
to honor my brother's life:
three generations

Michael Hough
Michigan



eyes on each other
one wrapped in a blanket
one under shavings
tired of running in circles
on the rat race's treadmill

Stephen J. DeGuire
California



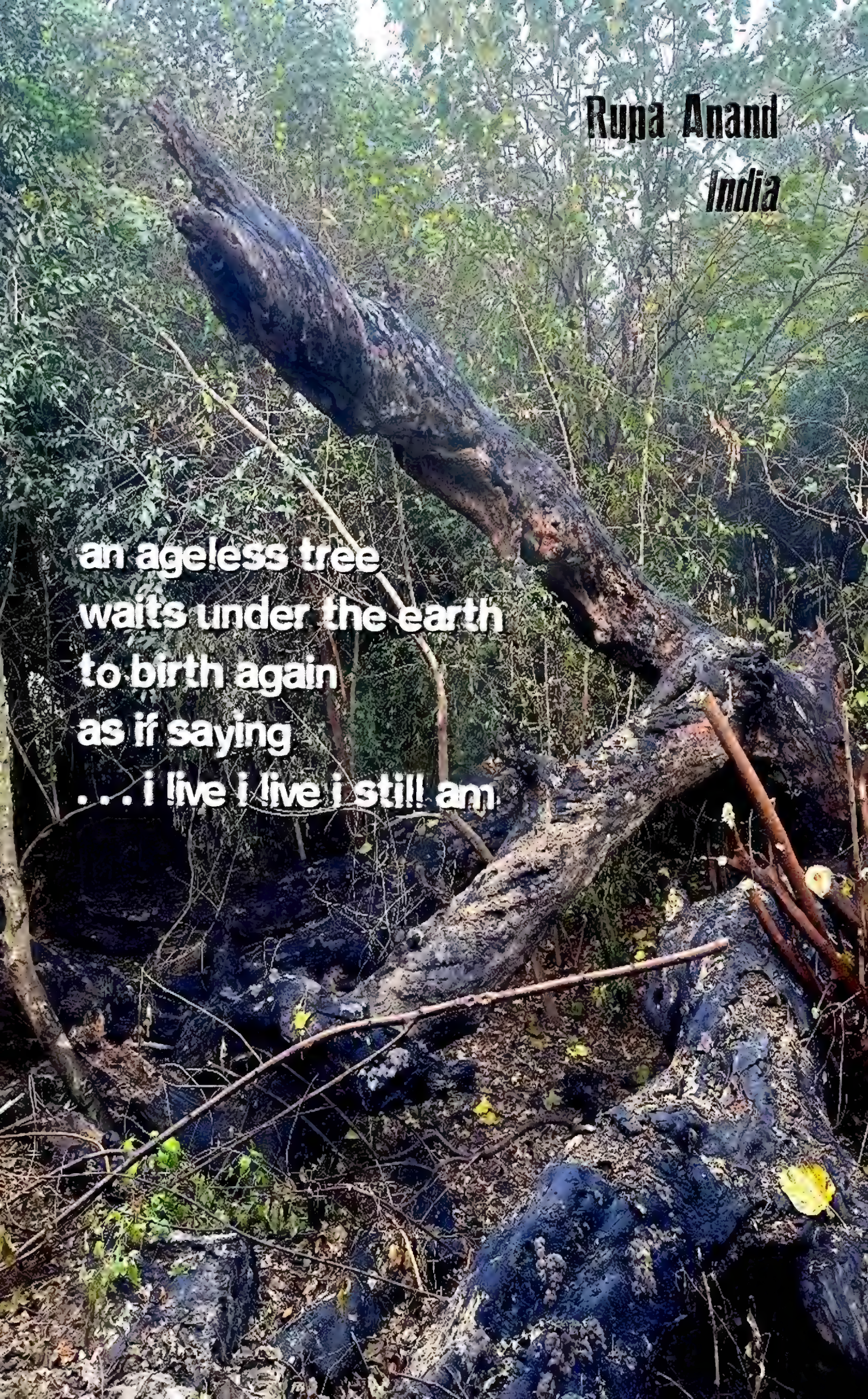
A black and white photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, a tree trunk is covered in various graffiti tags and drawings, including the words 'VIA', 'HERO', 'A', 'KAY', and 'B.S.'. The background shows a dense forest of bare trees and a ground covered in fallen leaves and branches.

third trimester
the nurse asks about a name
tattooed on my arm

Adele Evershed
Connecticut

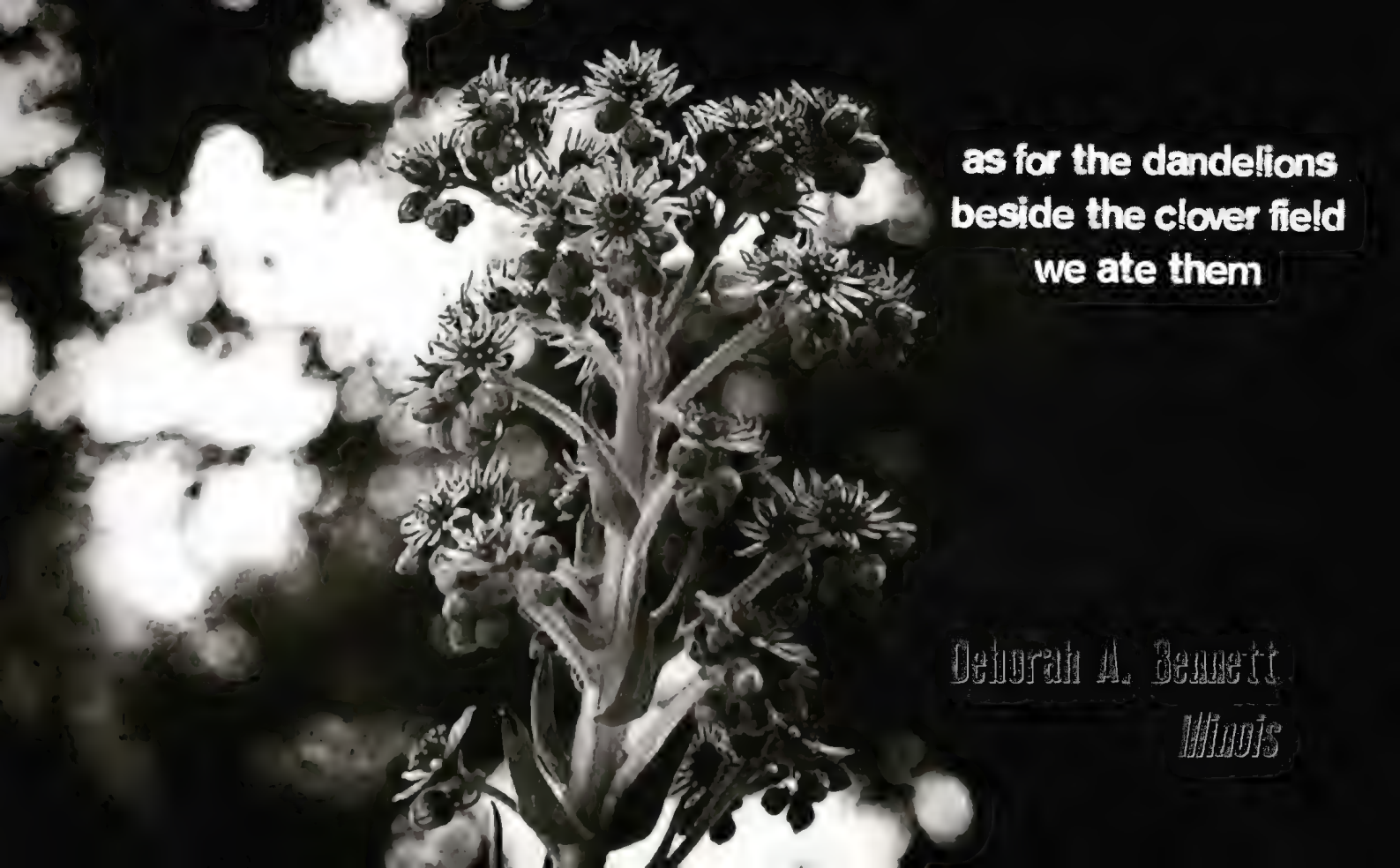
**russian olive trees
bringing old relatives home
for the holidays**

Sara Plain
Minneapolis

A large, dark, gnarled tree trunk lies diagonally across the frame, from the upper left towards the lower right. The trunk is heavily textured with deep grooves and knots, appearing almost black in some areas. It rests on a forest floor covered with dry leaves, twigs, and small green plants. The background is a dense thicket of green foliage and branches, creating a sense of a deep, wild forest. The lighting is natural, with some highlights on the trunk and the surrounding leaves.

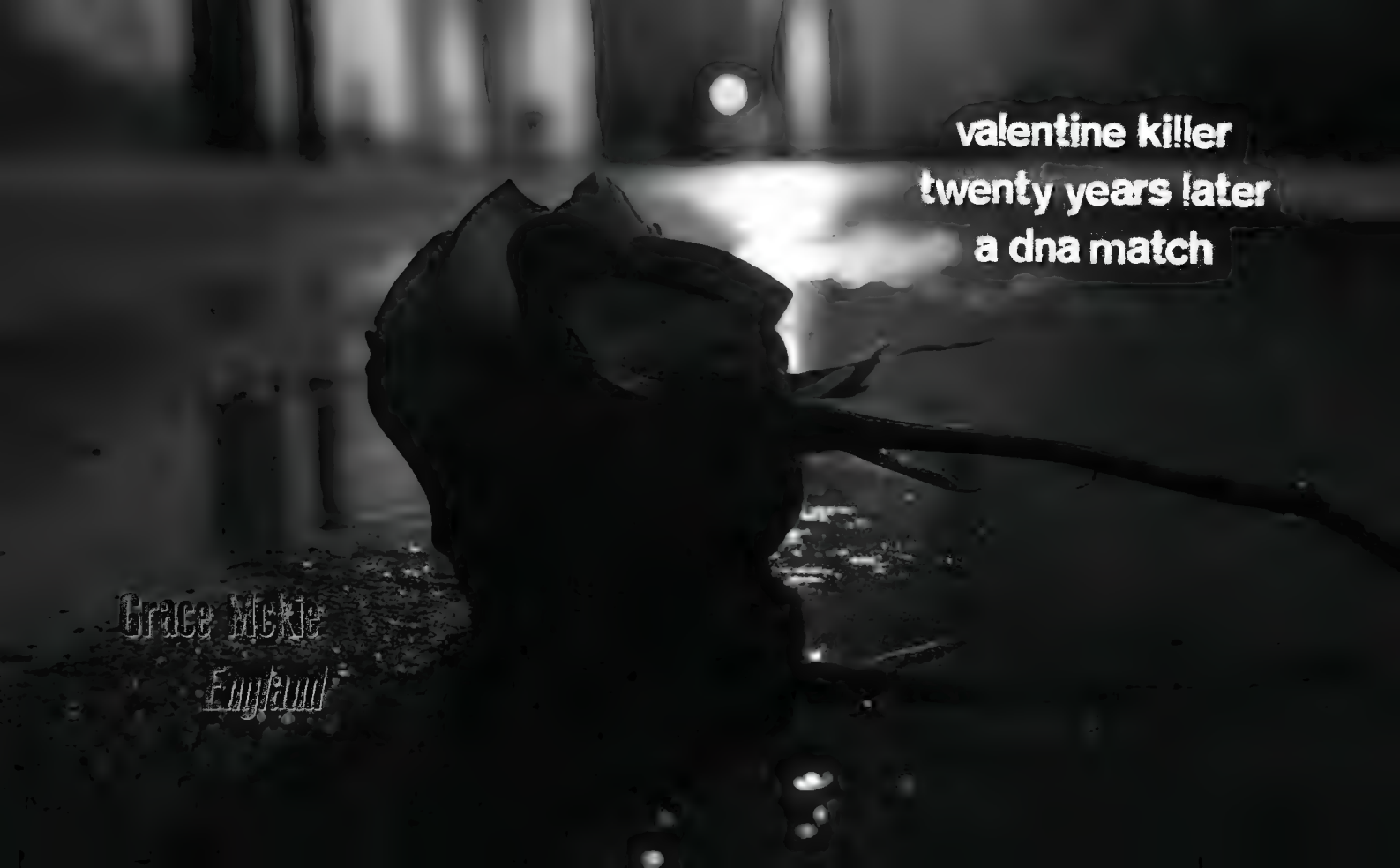
Rupa Anand
India

**an ageless tree
waits under the earth
to birth again
as if saying
... i live i live i still am**



as for the dandelions
beside the clover field
we ate them

Deborah A. Bennett
Illinois



valentine killer
twenty years later
a dna match

Grace McKie
England

silent trail pick a ginkgo leaf to mark his death



Jianqing Zheng
Mississippi

In Memory of Adjei Agyei-Baah
June 29, 1977 to December 18, 2023



Melissa Dennison

England

**magpies
how do you
know
the size
of twig to use?**

Sarang Bhand

India



rooted
in tongue
your name



Emma Datson
Australia

Details in light
A man walks by me
Bringing a wall of oil, grease.
Then a door opens
Before me, details in light.
It is him, my father walks in.



drought conditions
crawling back to a
dirt home

Aaron Bowker
New York


**small-town roots
he vows never to return
slipping into dialect**

Neena Singh
India

A photograph of a forest floor covered in brown, fallen leaves. In the center, a large, light-colored log lies horizontally, having been cut. To its left, a small, moss-covered tree stump remains. The background is filled with thin, vertical tree trunks and some bare branches, suggesting a wooded area in late autumn or winter.

**hometown
I slip back in
to the dialect**

**Robert Kingston
*England***



Robin Smith
Delaware

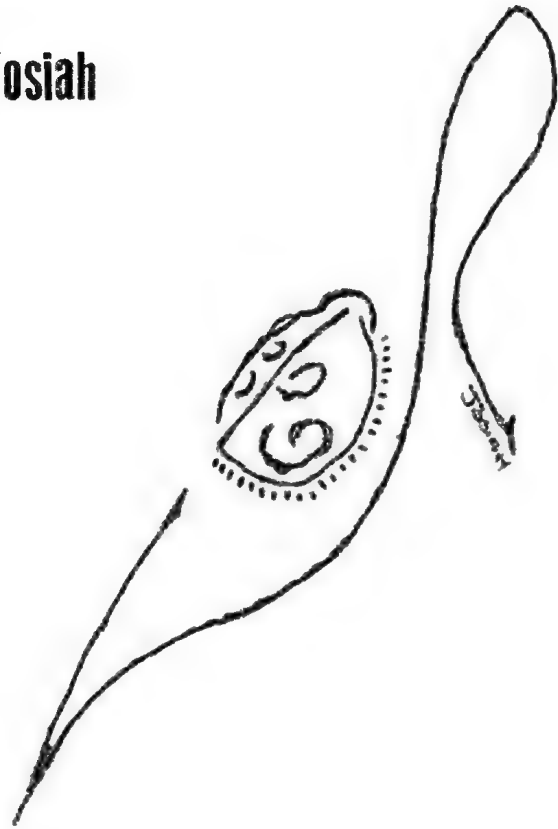
casper pumpkin
the colors hidden beneath
my skin



train whistle
the pull of home
grows deeper

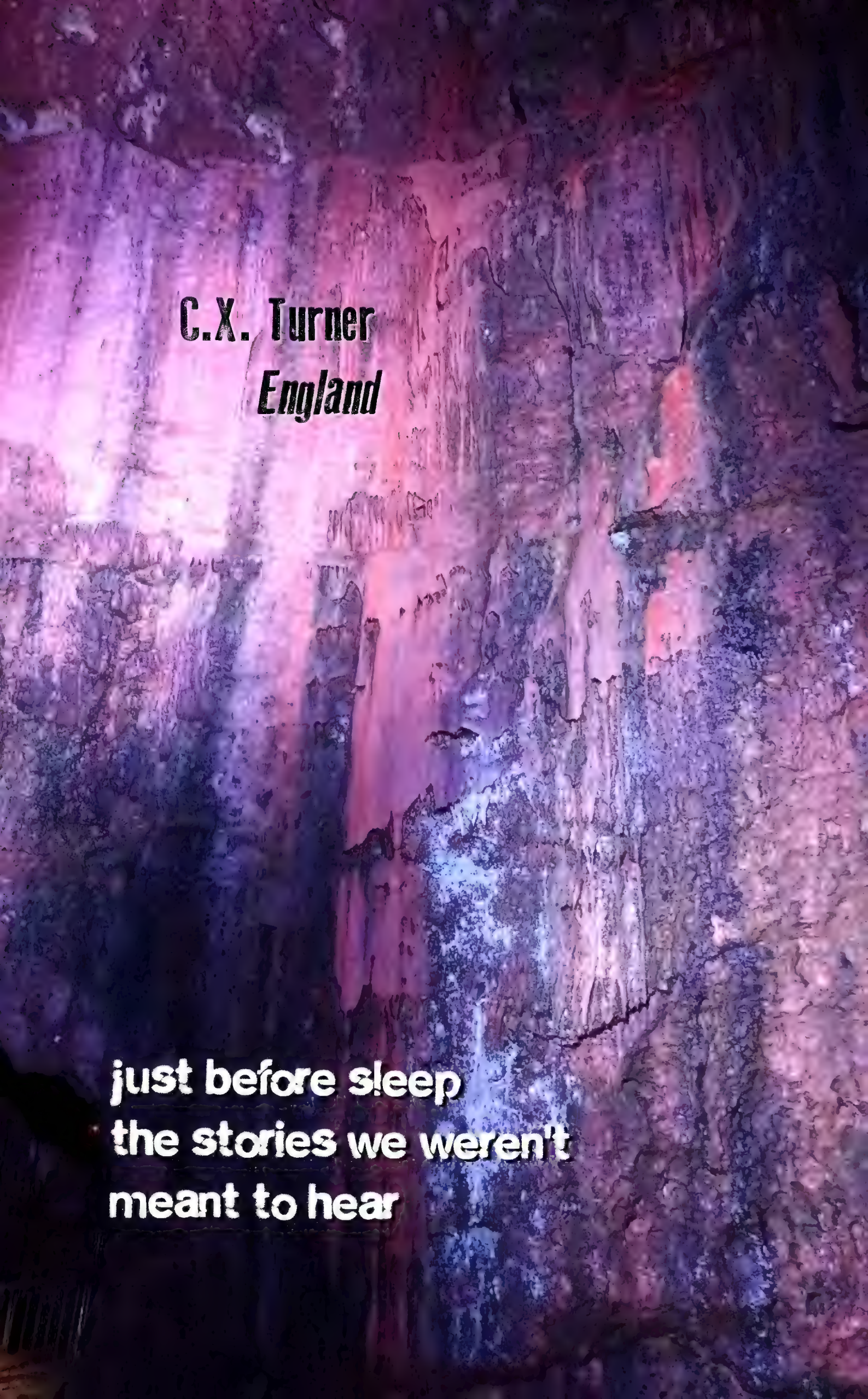
Nitu Yumnam
India

art by Josiah



some ideas
like the potato shoot
underground

C. Oulens
India



C.X. Turner
England


**just before sleep
the stories we weren't
meant to hear**



**eternal sunset
branches dive connecting rich soil
hearts radiate love**

Cedar R. London

Australia

A dark, weathered door with a brass lock and a yellow doorknob. The door is set in a frame that appears to be made of wood or concrete, showing signs of age and wear. The lock is a circular brass piece with a keyhole in the center. Below the lock is a yellow doorknob with a silver-colored base. The door itself is dark and has some lighter-colored patches, possibly from peeling paint or weathering. The background to the right of the door is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a wall or another part of the building.

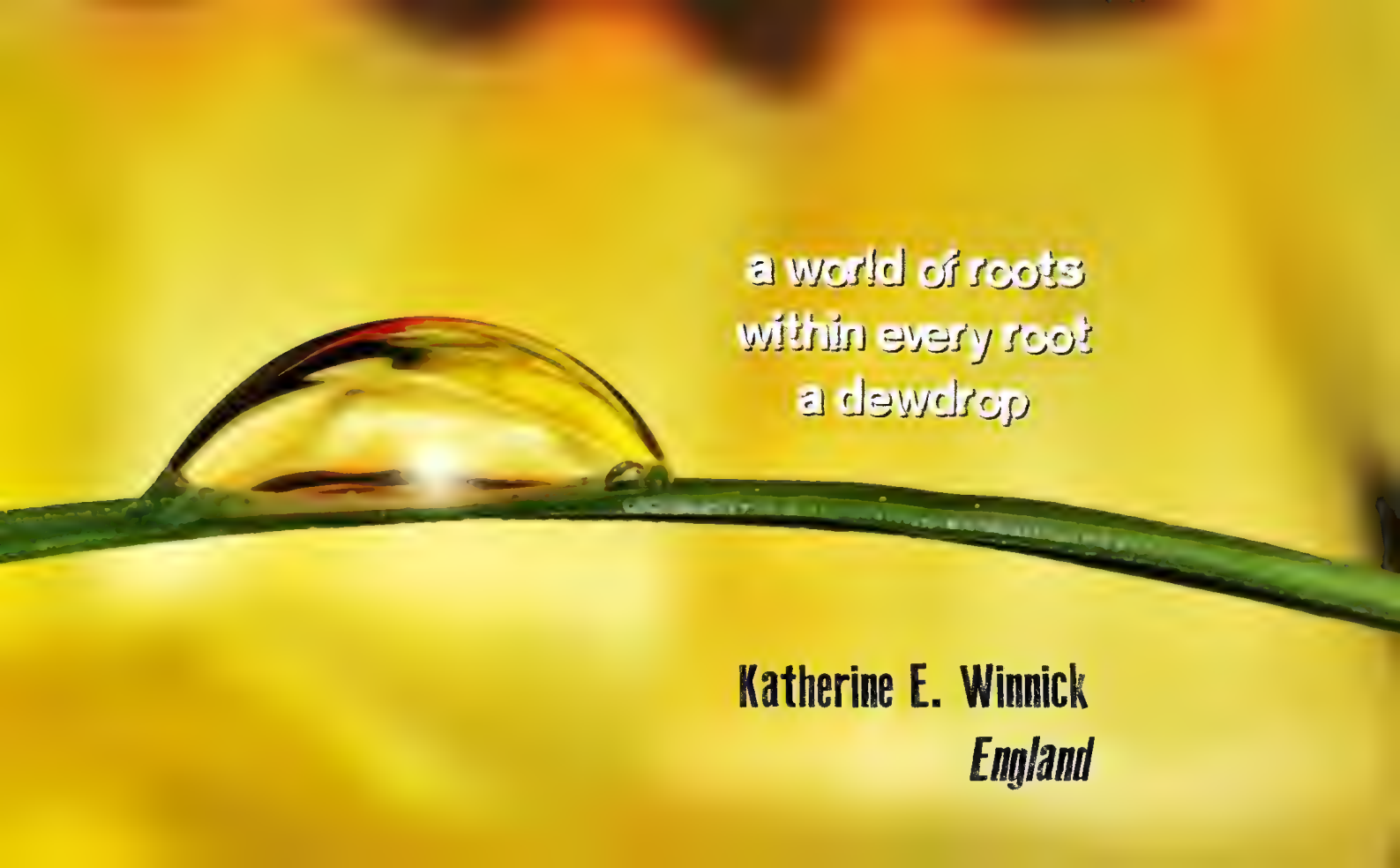
on the ocean bluffs
purring growling of the waves
green crusting door locks
weather beaten but storm strong
I wait for the lights to fail!

Kathy Watts
California

A photograph of a large banyan tree with many aerial roots hanging down. The roots are thick and light-colored, contrasting with the dark, dense foliage of the tree. The background is filled with green leaves and branches, creating a complex, layered appearance.

banyan
multi-root medusa
strangles host

DL Huffman
North Carolina



a world of roots
within every root
a dewdrop

Katherine E. Winnick
England

holding onto its scent the colour deeply rooted




Lakshmi Iyer
India

**expat diwali
missing home
curry takeaway**



Miera Rao
California



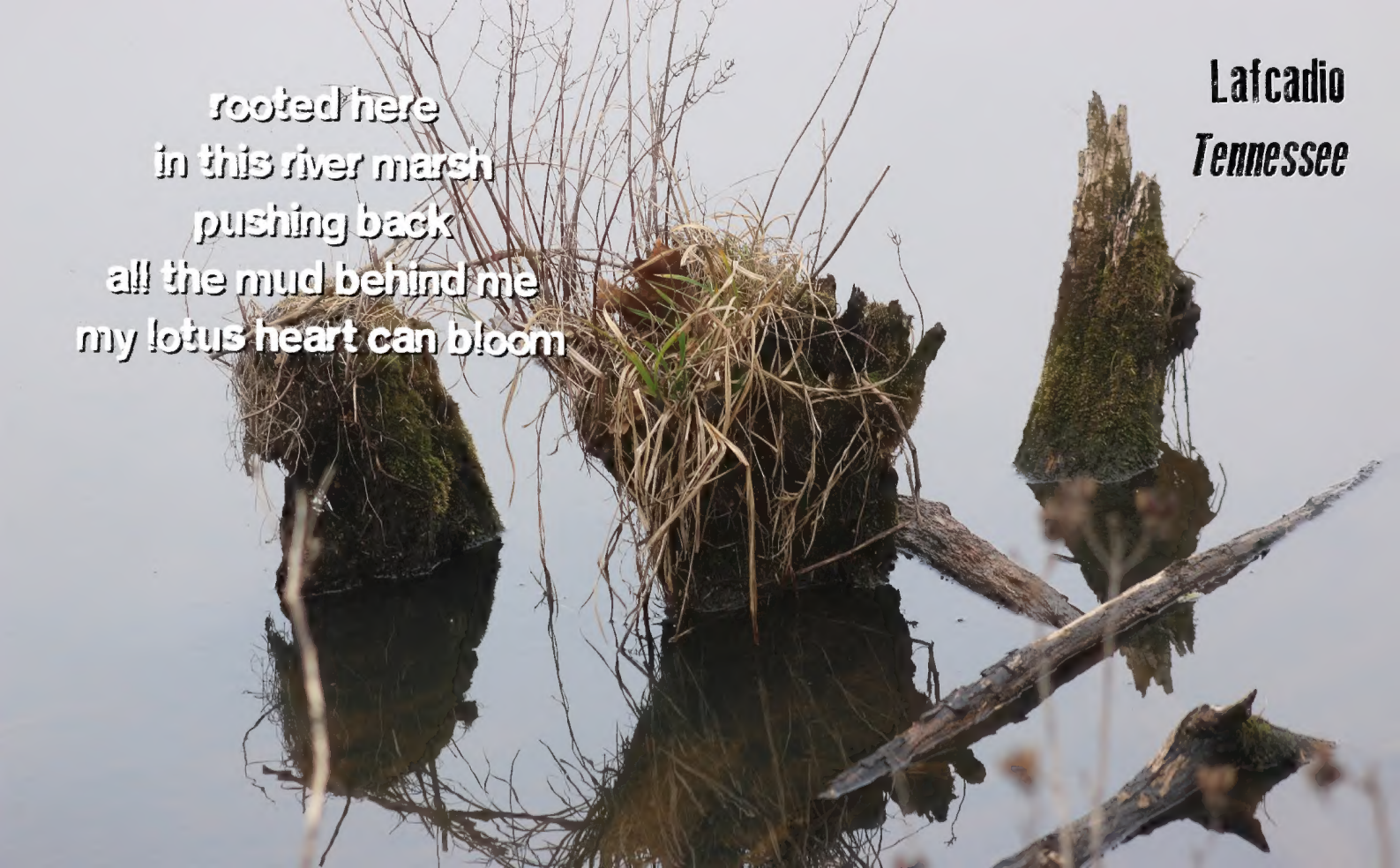
a stone's throw
from our ancestral home
the cemetery
overgrown and forgotten
on someone else's land

C. Jean Downer
British Columbia

aspens communicate
with each other
... mycelia



Nancy Brady
Ohio



rooted here
in this river marsh
pushing back
all the mud behind me
my lotus heart can bloom

Lafcadio
Tennessee

Outro

Roots, they bind us to the past and cement us in the present. Each can be both bolstering and stifling in various ways, but we are linked to them in many senses inextricably, invisible though peculiar tendrils may often be. As our contributors have demonstrated expertly in different compelling manners throughout the length of this enjoyable outing, while we are never the same person stepping into that precise splash of river at one given time, nonetheless said body of present in motion has been existing since time immemorial started with a bang, its contents able neither to be created nor destroyed, and without difficulty may be sighted in the distance flowing around a bend back towards the source. There is nothing new under the sun, a king once postulated, and just so each of our unique experiences and circumstances could be thoughtfully traced historically, chromosomally, epigenetically to our forebears (and the larger societies and cultures in which each played active roles in), their glories and upsets, and the tumultuous universal zeitgeist comprising in toto time's mercurial arrow. Reconciling the linear and the cyclical has represented one of our species' greatest challenges, many scholars and thinkers' lives' works. Heterodox salutes the talented poets within who have truly done yeoman's work toward grappling with these lofty questions, in scales micro to macro.

The *hokku* itself served as the formative seed, primordial promethean spark which set off the wildfire of linked verse poetry, literary communication in the forms' nascency, which makes recent English rediscovery and increasing embrace of *haikai* and *tan-renga* so exciting. Similarly, before its somewhat eclipsing in contemporary usage the *tanka* popularized micropoetry in Japan for eons and fostered extraordinary traffic in ideas and communication about the eastern (and later blazing valuable trails into the western) world. In exhibiting *haiga/shahai/photo-haiku* (along with *waka* equivalents) it's also intriguing to note the energetic magnetism of force generated, whether attractive or repulsive, between words and imagery, and to consider the resulting effect of ekphrasis at such intersections, whether linking or shifting, and either moving towards or from one half of the collective equations the discrete pieces, covalently bonded halves represent in sum. Finally, it behooves us to note the continued importance and primacy of seasonality in our travels across sound units and their essential cuts, a refined and studied appreciation for time and how it is articulated via elements, formalizing and codification via *kigo* and *saijiki*, *kiyose* and overarching categories has gradually engendered what amounts to almost a unique language and means of description, lens for observing all its very own, which is supple and polyglot and may be adapted to every tongue, for any environment or occasion.

I encourage you each to continue stretching out towards the sun, but also protect and safeguard your roots, personally and as a practitioner of time-honored traditions. Success in expansion truly is predicated upon firm foundations after all, and the brilliant writers, photographers, and artists showcased herein (and the styles they exemplify) boast particularly formidable bedrock! *Ad astra...*

Australia

Emma Datson
Cedar R. London

Italy

Barbara Anna Gaiardoni

Borneo

Christina Chin

Taiwan

Andrew Brindle

Canada

C. Jean Downer
Jahnvi Gogoi
Biswajit Mishra
Isabella Mori

United States of America

Deborah A. Bennett
Jerome Berglund
Aaron Bowker
Stephen J. DeGuire
Adele Evershed
Michael Hough
JL Huffman
Josiah
Lafcadio

England
Melissa Dennison
John Hawkhead
Robert Kingston
Grace McKie
C.K. Turner
Katherine E. Winnick

Linda L. Ludwig
Marjorie Pezzoli
Sara Plain
Miera Rao
Bonnie J Scherer
Robin Smith
Leon Tefft
Kathy Watts
Jianqing Zheng

India

Rupa Anand
Sarang Bhand
Nancy Brady
Lakshmi Iyer
Anagha Mhatre
C. Oulens
Neena Singh
Nitu Yumnam



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